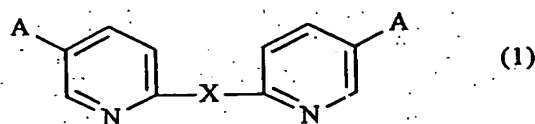


Amendments to the Claims:

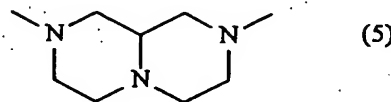
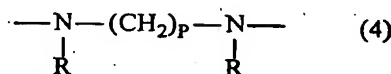
The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof:



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, and X is a group selected from the group consisting of moieties having formula (2) (4) to (5):



wherein, in formula (2), m is an integer of 1 or 2, and in formula (3), n is an integer of 1 to 6; and in formula (4), R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and p is an integer of 1 to 6.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The bis(aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or salt thereof

according to Claim 1, wherein, in formula (1), A is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl, a substituted or unsubstituted furyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzofuryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl group.

Claim 3. (Original) The bis(aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or salt thereof according to Claim 2, wherein, in formula (1), A is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group.

Claim 4. (Original) The bis(aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or salt thereof according to Claim 2, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon group or said aromatic heterocyclic group is substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, hydroxy(lower alkyl) groups, lower alkoxy(lower alkyl) groups, lower alkoxy groups, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, (lower alkyl)thio groups, amino, mono- or di-(lower alkyl)amino groups, (lower alkyl)sulfonylamino groups, formyl, carboxyl, (lower alkoxy)carbonyl groups, lower alkanoyl groups, pyrrolidinyl, and alkylenedioxy groups.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Original) The bis(aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein the lower alkyl moiety in the lower alkyl group containing groups is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, cyclopropyl or cyclohexyl.

Claim 7. (Original) The bis(aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein said 1 to 3 substituents are selected from the group consisting of methyl, t-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, fluorine, chlorine, hydroxy, cyano, methylthio, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, formyl, carboxyl, ethoxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, propionyloxy, acetyl, methylenedioxy, methoxycarbonyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxymethyl, amino, methanesulfonylamino, and trifluoromethyl.

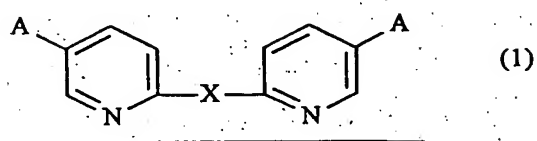
Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 4, wherein said bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound is 1,4-bis[5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyridyl]hexahydro-1,4-diazepine dimethanesulfonate, 1,4-bis[5-(4-amino-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyridyl]hexahydro-1,4-diazepine tetrahydrochloride, 1,4-bis[5-(4-dimethylamino-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyridyl]hexahydro-1,4-diazepine, 1,3-bis[4-[5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyridyl]-1-piperazinyl]propane or N,N'-bis[5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine dimethanesulfonate.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A medicinal composition, comprising, as an active ingredient, an effective amount of the bis(aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

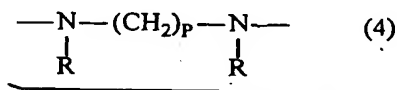
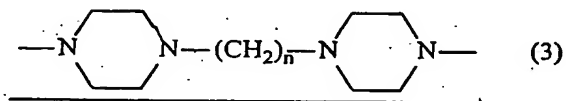
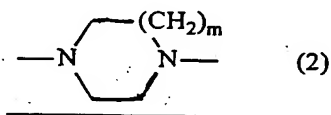
Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The medicinal composition according to Claim 8 9, which is effective in the prevention or therapeutic treatment of an allergic immune disease.

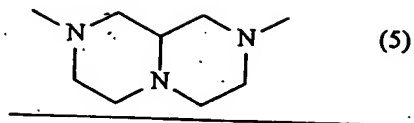
Claim 11. (Original) The medicinal composition according to Claim 10, which said allergic immune disease is asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis or an allergic ~~ophthalmopathy~~ ophthalmopathy.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) An IgE antibody production inhibitor which is a bis(aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to ~~Claim 1~~ represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof:



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, and X is a group selected from the group consisting of moieties having formula (2) to (5):



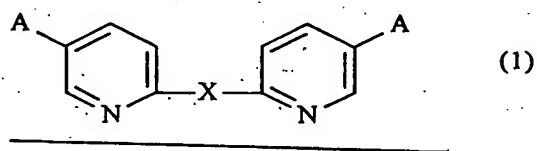


wherein, in formula (2), m is an integer of 1 or 2, and in formula (3), n is an integer of 1 to 6; and in formula (4), R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and p is an integer of 1 to 6.

Claim 13. (Canceled)

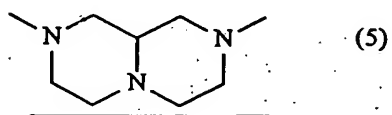
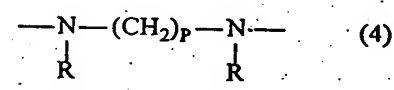
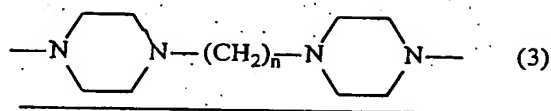
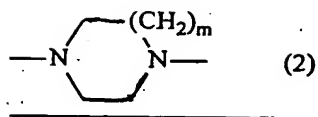
Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a subject suffering from an allergic immune disease, which comprises:

administering an effective amount of a the bis(aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof.



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, and X is a group selected from the group consisting of moieties having formula (2) to (5);

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wherein, in formula (2), m is an integer of 1 or 2, and in formula (3), n is an integer of 1 to 6; and in formula (4), R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and p is an integer of 1 to 6, to said subject.